

HARPSWELL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Guidelines

It is the goal of HCG to offer a high quality, safe, and accessible space for the public to enjoy the benefits of gardening. In order to achieve this, cooperation is required from all participants to contribute to a positive experience for themselves and other gardeners. Rules are based on the simple principle, be a good neighbor. By keeping our plots well tended and contributing time to common area maintenance, we can make and keep HCG a success. To this end, all gardeners are asked to donate six volunteer hours over the course of the season.

New gardeners: we are happy to give you an orientation at the beginning of the season. Contact Judith Stanton at jws77@me.com or 376-7888 to make arrangements.

Michell Field hours are from 8 am to sunset.

Plots & Pathways

Place structures (trellises, hoops, fences, supports) at least one foot inside plot edges.

Plants must not grow into or hang over the pathways.

Place tall crops on the south side or center of plot to avoid shading neighbor's plots.

Gardeners are responsible, with adjacent gardeners, to keep pathways bordering your plot weeded, unobstructed and level. Please pay special attention to the edges of your plot: they should measure as close to 10x10' or 10x15' as possible. Some have crept into pathways, which creates difficulty for wheelbarrows to pass through.

Seasonal Maintenance

Arrange to visit garden weekly in order to weed, water, and harvest in a timely manner. Plots must be kept weed-free throughout the season, as neglect allows them to grow and spread into other plots.

Monitor and control insect pests on your plot. Like weeds, they do not respect boundaries.

Living or dead annual crops/flowers, weeds, tomato cages, trellises and other small support items should be removed by October 31st, or two weeks after the first killing frost. Returning gardeners may leave perennial plants with seed heads removed and larger structures in place by special request.

Volunteer Labor Contributions

A schedule of work days for maintenance tasks will be publicized through email and Facebook posts.

You may contribute your six hours of volunteer work per season by restoring pathways, mowing areas surrounding the garden, turning compost, helping with Common Good Garden, or taking on a special project.

Please record your volunteer hours online or in the log book on the table in the garden shed. You may also email them to Judith Stanton, jws77@me.com. It is important that we track these in-kind contributions because they can influence funding. Similarly, if you contribute materials to the garden (tools, plant material, etc), please let Judith know the value.

Children and Pets

We welcome and encourage children to participate in the garden community, but please make sure they do not disturb other plots. A sandbox and play structure inside the garden fence are available to children who come to the garden with their parents or other adults.

Well-behaved dogs are allowed in the garden, but must be leashed at all times and preferably remain in common areas.

Organic Gardening Basics

Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides are not permitted.

Labels must state that product 100% organic and approved by OMRI.

Smoking is not allowed in or near the garden. Tobacco mosaic virus, which can be carried on people's hands, is a serious threat to tomatoes and other plants.

Wood that is pressure treated, painted or treated in any other way is not permitted.

Please do not put infested and diseased plant material into the compost bin; bag and dispose of at home.

Compost Bins

Garden waste and food scraps only (no meat, milk, fish, or bones).

Use bin on the far right side only.

All weeds go on the pile to the right of the bin, NOT in it.

Water

Non-potable water is supplied from a deep well, with piping to bring it to the storage tanks in the garden, where it is pumped to a series of spigots throughout the plots.

Please use water efficiently. The storage tanks can empty quickly after use by multiple gardeners. Please see the document “Watering Tips.”

The water system is powered by a solar panel and will not replenish itself on cloudy days. This will rarely be a problem but it’s possible after several sunless days in a row. Or if a spigot is left open! Please be sure to completely close the spigot when finished watering.

Tools and Equipment

The shed has a combo lock, which will be provided in an email. Please be sure to lock the door when you leave.

Hand tools, wheelbarrows, watering cans, etc. are stored in the garden shed. Please clean soil and debris off the tools before you store them to prolong their life.

A small first aid kit is located on the card table inside the door.

Lawn mower – if you will be using the riding lawn mower, you will need to sign a waiver (at Town Office) and fill in the log which is under a special tab in the volunteer log book.

Trash

Please carry out anything that cannot be composted. Meat, bread, dairy products and processed foods of any kind should not be placed in the bins.

Harvesting

If you are going to be away during the season or for other reasons are not able to tend your plot, we suggest you request a garden "buddy" to look after it for you, including harvesting.

In past seasons, we have sadly watched produce falling to the ground and rotting when some plots were not harvested regularly. If you are going to be away or are too busy to harvest, please consider letting us know. Volunteers will be happy to glean whatever you specify to donate to the Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program and Harpswell Food Mobile.

Forfeiture

If these guidelines are not followed or a plot is unused, untended or neglected, the gardener will be notified and asked to correct the problem within two weeks.

Failure to correct problem means the possible forfeiture of the plot during the current garden season. In cases of forfeiture, fees will not be returned.

Communications

Primary modes of communication are through email, the town website, and our Facebook page.

You will receive a plot map with everyone's name, email and phone number. If you wish to opt out from sharing this information, let Judith know.

Our committee is here to support HCG in all respects: to work with you to create a thriving garden community and assure that you have a satisfying and enjoyable experience. If you are interested in joining the committee, please email or call Judith.

Overall Coordination: Judith Stanton 207-376-7888 jws77@me.com

Common Good Garden: Mary Ruchinskas 833-2375 mruchinskas@gmail.com

Bulletin Board

You may post notes, comments, etc on the bulletin board inside the garden shed if you wish.

Organic Garden Products

To maintain the organic integrity of the Harpswell Community Garden, products that are acceptable and unacceptable are listed here:

Acceptable

BT, M Track, MVP
Messenger
NEEM
Insecticidal soaps
Pyrethrum
Summer Oil
Seaweed/fish preparations
Garlic, hot pepper, "kitchen" mixes
PRO GRO fertilizer
Diatomaceous earth
Serenade
Spinosad
Sulfur
Wood ash
Manures (non carnivorous)
Rock powders (lime, rock phosphate,
greensand, granite dust)
Liquids may be applied by hand-held trigger spray bottle only

Unacceptable

Miracle Gro, Miracid, Peters, unless 100% organic formulations
5-10-5, 5-10-10 and variations
Rotenone
Sevin
Diazonin
Malathion
Methoxychlor
Pyrethrin
Slug bait with metaldehyde
Sabadilla
Copper
Chemical formulations

Harpswell Community Garden is a Town-sponsored Recreational Program, with funding support from the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust.